



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Dean Antipas, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Bruce S. Flax, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, and Paulann H. Sheets

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Harry Watson.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Sheets

Also present were Director of Administrative Services Doug Ackerman, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Roscoe Merritt.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2009-0140 Proclamation Honoring Roscoe Merritt

Read

A proclamation was read by Mayor Watson honoring Moscoe Merritt for 41 years of continuous service to the Town of Groton in the Public Works Department.

Softball State Championship

Councilor Kolnaski congratulated the Fitch Senior High School softball team for winning the State Championship.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Steve Garmon, 96 Corey Road, is confused about the boundary lines between Groton and Mystic. This "tongue-in-cheek" confusion stems from local businesses promoting their location as being in Mystic. He would like the Council to have clear-cut lines delineated between Groton and Mystic.

Mary Kelly, 40 Plant Street, President of the Groton Animal Foundation (GAF), stated that over 33% of its pledge for the Animal Control Facility has been raised. Ms. Kelly gave an update on building fund donations, items purchased, and future plans of GAF. An emergency medical fund has been established to be used for seriously hurt or injured animals to make them more adoptable. Ms. Kelly extended her gratitude to all who have contributed their time and money to this effort.

Jane Cafone, 18 Indian Avenue, is a board member of GAF and feeds the cats located outside the Animal Control Facility. A fence has been erected and she is concerned that if the gate is locked, she will no longer be able to perform that duty. Ms. Cafone was instructed to contact the Town Manager's office.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilors jointly clarified why the boundaries of Groton and Mystic seem unclear. The postal service has designated sections of Groton as Mystic, Old Mystic, and West Mystic, and the tourist trade seems to have branded all of the surrounding area as Mystic. However, Mystic can be defined as the area of Groton that is located within the Mystic Fire District.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**a. Approval of Minutes****2009-0141 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meetings of March 30, 2009, May 19, 2009, May 26, 2009, and June 2, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items**2009-0149 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Groton Artwaves - \$2,000 - Mystic Arts Cafe

Hilltop Montessori Nursery School, Inc. - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Groton Artwaves, Inc. - \$2,000.00 - Library Miscellaneous

George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Ledge Light Health District GASP Coalition Community Grant - \$1,875.00 - Maritime Academy Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Watson expressed the Town's gratitude for the many contributions, highlighting the donations from Groton Artwaves and the Ledge Light Health District GASP Coalition Community Grant.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2009-0083 FYE 2010 Proposed Budget Deliberations**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0116 TVCCA Lease Agreement for 40 Central Avenue

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0155 Bridge Street Streetscape Project - Funding for Final Engineering

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0157 Authorization to Prepare Bond Ordinance for Thames Street Rehabilitation Project

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0158 Referral of Thames Street Rehabilitation Project to Planning Commission Under CGS 8-24

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0162 Referral of Thames Street Rehabilitation Project to City Planning and Zoning Commission Under CGS 8-24

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**a. Town Councilors**

Councilor Monteiro attended the retirement party for Fitch Senior High School Principal Bob Bacewicz. She also received an email in support of the troops, specifically support for a local man named Bob Whittle who is at Fort Riley and preparing to deploy to Iraq.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Fitch Senior High School Activities Awards Program, a D.A.R.E. Graduation at Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School, a Board of Education meeting, a Children First Groton meeting, a Ledge Light Health District meeting, and the retirement party for Fitch Senior High School Principal Bob Bacewicz. She also noted that the Town Council/Board of Education/RTM Liaison Committee meeting scheduled for June 17, 2009, has been cancelled.

Mayor Watson attended a Children First Groton meeting awards ceremonies for both underclassmen and Seniors at Fitch Senior High School, the Mystic Co-Op Task Force meeting, and a Flag Day Ceremony at the Elks Club. He made the opening remarks at a Golf Tournament for Sacred Heart School, and delivered a presentation on local government to a Civics class at Fitch Senior High School.

Councilor Schmidt received an email regarding Mardie Lane.

Councilor Antipas received the email in support of the troops mentioned previously. He also visited the Mardie Lane site to look at its current condition.

Councilor Brown-Tracy received the same emails already mentioned. She also looked at the Mardie Lane area.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk stated that the next meeting of the RTM will be on June 17, 2009.

c. Clerk of the Council

Barbara Tarbox reminded citizens about renewing dog licenses. She also stated that the upcoming need for marine fishing licenses was announced in the newspaper. Some were sold but this is no longer an option on the DEP Sporting License System until the governor signs the bill. Local fishermen should read the newspaper for further updates as to when this license will become available.

d. Town Manager

Lee Vincent noted that the General Assembly is back in session behind closed doors and there is no budget news yet.

2009-0166 City of Groton and Groton Long Point Police Department Budget Appropriations

CITY OF GROTON AND GROTON LONG POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

Mayor Watson made a referral to the Public Safety Committee regarding whether the Town has a legal obligation to fund the police budget for the City of Groton and the Groton Long Point Police Departments.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

The Committee of the Whole met and discussed the items on tonight's agenda.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2009-0116 TVCCA Lease Agreement for 40 Central Avenue

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH TVCCA FOR THE PREMISES AT 40 CENTRAL AVENUE

WHEREAS, since 1990 the YMCA of Southeastern Connecticut, based in Norwich, has leased from the Town of Groton a Town-owned building at 40 Central Avenue for their day care program, and

WHEREAS, the property has been leased for a day care center at a nominal fee, with the lessee being responsible for operating costs including water, electricity, heat, solid waste and collection of recyclable materials, as well as non-structural repairs and maintenance, and

WHEREAS, that lease agreement has been advantageous for Groton families by making available low cost child care services, and

WHEREAS, the YMCA of Southeastern Connecticut is no longer able to carry out their day care program and is unable to comply with the commitments contained in their lease, and

WHEREAS, the Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) has offered to provide day care services in place of the YMCA, and

WHEREAS, TVCCA is a responsible social service agency that has provided many other needed social services on their own to Groton residents and/or in cooperation with the Town of Groton, and

WHEREAS, TVCCA is the lessee of the adjoining premises at 36 Central Avenue where they operate the Head Start program, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been held by the Town Council on the proposal to enter into a substitute lease with TVCCA, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Groton Town Manager, may execute the newly negotiated, updated lease of the premises at 40 Central Avenue to TVCCA for a term ending April 30, 2014.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Brown-Tracy, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0155

Bridge Street Streetscape Project - Funding for Final Engineering

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CAPITAL RESERVE APPROPRIATION FOR ENGINEERING FOR THE BRIDGE STREET STREETSCAPE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town Council and RTM have previously appropriated funds for both conceptual and preliminary design work associated with the Thames Street/Bridge Street Reconstruction Project, and

WHEREAS, as a result of this previous work, successful application has been made to the State of Connecticut for federal stimulus construction funding in the amount of \$1.1 million for the Bridge Street portion of this project, and

WHEREAS, in order to utilize the federal stimulus funding that is available, final design and bid specifications for Bridge Street must be completed as soon as possible so as to meet a February 2010 funding commitment obligation to the federal government, and

WHEREAS, funding will be needed for final design, environmental permitting, project meetings and coordination, and the bidding phase of this project in the estimated amount of \$72,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that FYE 2009 CIP #1J is increased in an amount of \$72,000 and is appropriated from the Capital Reserve Fund's fund balance for the above-stated purpose.

Refer to RTM

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0157

Authorization to Prepare Bond Ordinance for Thames Street Rehabilitation Project

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF A BOND ORDINANCE AND OTHER RESOLUTIONS FOR THAMES STREET REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed a proposal for the comprehensive rehabilitation of roadways, sidewalks and related facilities on Thames Street in the City of Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council considers it appropriate to present the rehabilitation project to the Town's voters in a bond referendum, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town staff and the Town bond attorney are authorized to prepare a bond ordinance to be introduced by the Town Council, along with ancillary resolutions calling for a public hearing and any other necessary and proper procedures.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0158

Referral of Thames Street Rehabilitation Project to Planning Commission Under CGS 8-24

RESOLUTION REFERRING THE THAMES STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT TO THE TOWN OF GROTON PLANNING COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed a proposal for the comprehensive rehabilitation of roadways, sidewalks and related facilities on Thames Street in the City of Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council considers it appropriate to present the rehabilitation project to the

Town's voters in a bond referendum, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is concurrently referring the project to the City of Groton Planning and Zoning Commission, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the proposed project for Thames Street Rehabilitation to the Groton Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Planning Commission.

Councilor Flax asked if the referendum question will be split up so that the voters will have a choice of which portion(s) of the project they will approve.

Mayor Watson stated that the bond attorney will draft the bond ordinance and a Public Hearing will be scheduled before a referendum question is drafted.

In response to a question regarding the cost of the project, the Mayor stated that a presentation was made to the Committee of the Whole which explained the project and the associated costs in detail.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0162

Referral of Thames Street Rehabilitation Project to City Planning and Zoning Commission Under CGS 8-24

RESOLUTION REFERRING THE THAMES STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT TO THE CITY OF GROTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed a proposal for the comprehensive rehabilitation of roadways, sidewalks and related facilities on Thames Street in the City of Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council considers it appropriate to present the rehabilitation project to the Town's voters in a bond referendum, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is concurrently referring the project to the Town of Groton Planning Commission, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the proposed project for Thames Street Rehabilitation to the City of Groton Planning and Zoning Commission, pursuant to CGS 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the City of Groton Planning & Zoning Commission.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Watson canvassed Councilors regarding the mode of transportation needed for the 4th of July Parade and requested that the Town arrange to have a truck available for that date.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant